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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 20 SEP 51 /VVO

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

50X1-HUM

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Institute for Research on Radiation and
Light SourcesNAME
(AKA) NIKEDDATE OF
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- At the end of 1950, an institute for research on radiation and light sources* was founded by Professor Robert Rompe, head of the Second Institute of Physics (Zweites Physikalisches Institut) at Berlin Humboldt University, and a known Communist. The institute has been provisionally located on the premises of VEB Berliner Gluehlampenwerk (formerly Osram Works L, at Warschauerbruecke, Berlin O 17, and will be moved from there as soon as adequate quarters are found elsewhere. It is financed by the scientific planning department of the DDR and administered by the German Academy of Sciences (Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften). Rompe had long intended to set up such an institute, but was unable to obtain approval for the necessary funds or to find scientific personnel for its operation. Finally, his long-time Communist friend, Wittbrodt (fnu), an official in the scientific planning department of the DDR, backed his plan and made the funds available.

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- Work at the new institute began in January 1951 under the direction of Rompe. In addition to Rompe, only one other physicist and a small number of technicians and laboratory workers are working there. The physicist is Bernhard Ilchner, a [redacted] who had just finished his studies of physics under the sponsorship of Professor Friedrich Hund, Jena, before taking up this work. The institute started its work with research on spark discharges of extreme power of 1,000 amperes in permanent operation with momentary power rushes of over 10,000 amperes. Besides this, Ilchner is also engaged in research on drying lacquers with the aid of ultraviolet radiation. But the research goals assigned by Rompe to the new institute go far beyond these initial tasks. Rompe intends to make it quite generally a center for ultraviolet research, emphasizing fundamental studies and applications. If competent personnel can be found, infra-red research is also to be included in the program.
- Ilchner appeared at the Bunsen convention of physicists and physiochemist held at Goettingen at the beginning of May 1951. There he attempted to recruit West German scientists for positions in the new institute, where there is a shortage of trained specialists.

Comment: This is possibly the Studiengesellschaft

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